



FIVE YEARS AT-A-GLANCE

Saluting the Accomplishments of the Special Libraries Association

1986 - 1990

**1986
1987
1988
1989
1990**

In August 1985, the Special Libraries Association completed its move to Washington, D.C. Since the move, the Association has greatly expanded its scope of activities to include new and innovative programs designed to serve a growing and increasingly diverse membership. This period of growth is unrivaled in the Association's eighty-two-year history. The following are highlights of activities which have occurred since the move. Many are firsts for the information profession; all have endeavored to keep pace with changing member needs and interests.

'86

- **New headquarters** is established in Washington, DC.
- **State-of-the-Art Institute** is created to provide forum for in-depth exploration of issues affecting the information community. Proceedings of State-of-the-Art Institute are published as first in series.
- **Who's Who in Special Libraries** is provided to members as a benefit with added indices and information
- **Government Relations Program** is born to monitor legislation of interest to the library/information community. Director, Government Relations position is created.
- **Discounts on products and services** are offered to members including savings on member subscriptions to *BusinessWeek* magazine.
- **Specialist** receives a facelift. Members say publication is more "contemporary" and "readable".
- **Fellows Award** is established to honor leaders in the field of special librarianship for their outstanding contributions to the Association and profession.
- **Division and Chapter Officers Leadership Training (DACOLT)** is enhanced to help Chapter and Division officers develop a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Association leadership.
- **Information Resources Center** is automated to offer more effective services to members and staff.
- **CONSULT database** is established to provide easy online reference to member consultants online.
- **Monthly mailings to Chapter and Division bulletin editors** are initiated to provide more timely information on SLA activities.
- **Fund Development Program** is established to solicit contributions to support SLA programs and services.
- SLA's first "**Super Survey**" is conducted to collect baseline information on SLA members and provide direction for Association activities.
- **The Association is awarded a \$10,000 grant** by AT&T to purchase additional computers/equipment for the Information Resources Center.

'87

- **Macintosh Desktop Publishing system** is acquired to lower costs of typesetting and increase flexibility in publishing services.
- **Information Resources Center brochure** is created to raise awareness of the multitude of services offered.
- The first **Professional Development Assistant** is hired, enabling the Association to expand this key program area.
- **Student Group Newsletter** is established to enhance communications with this growing membership group.
- **Electronic mailhandling equipment** is installed at Association headquarters to speed mail processing and handle increasing volume.
- **Public Relations Award** is established to recognize the author of an outstanding feature story in a non-library, high-circulation publication.
- **Silent Auction** is created as an additional funding vehicle.
- **Government Relations training program** is initiated for Chapter and Division representatives.
- **Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** is contributed to the **Canadian Library Association** to support work on the revision of the Canadian copyright law.
- SLA's first **Manager, Membership Development** is hired to provide greater services to Chapters, Divisions and Association leaders.
- To meet increasing demand from members, the **Regional Continuing Education Program** is expanded to two courses and approximately 12 locations.
- **Special Committee on Research** is established by the Board of Directors to explore the establishment of an ongoing Research Program.
- A **comprehensive package of management materials** is created for Chapter and Division leaders including newly-revised **Guidelines**, and **manuals for key activities** such as government relations, fund development, conference programming, public relations and membership development.

'88

- SLA's first **Research Program** is established by the Board of Directors. The newly appointed Committee drafts the **Research Agenda** and a **Director, Research** is hired. The **Research Fund** is created to support external studies of interest to the Association.
- **Resume Referral Service** is established to provide the information profession with the first computer-based employment matching service.
- SLA becomes an official **cosponsor of National Library Week Legislative Day**.
- Two new awards are established: **Member Recognition for Excellence in Public Relations** and **Special Recognition for Excellence in Public Relations**, during National Library Week.
- **Caucuses** are established by the Board of Directors to provide networking opportunities to members with common interests.
- **Affirmative Action Scholarship** replaces the Minority Stipend at an increased level of funding.
- A **second SLA scholarship** is established to support study at the masters level.
- **Disclosure, Inc.** agrees to help support the **State-of-the-Art Institute** through a yearly contribution of \$15,000.
- A **Research Series** of publications is created to provide a vehicle for disseminating research findings to the library/information community.
- **Research Activities Column** is added to *Special Libraries* to keep members up-to-date on research activities in progress in the special libraries field.
- **First Information Kit** is published to bring together previously published materials on critical topics.
- SLA's first **computer-assisted study program** "Time Management in the Small Library" is offered to members.
- **Ron Coplen Leadership Fund** is established to support a yearly keynote address at the Winter Education Conference.
- SLA participates in **international exchange** with museum, arts and humanities librarians from the Soviet Union.

'89

- **The Self-Study Program** is established to provide members with a series of convenient cost-effective educational alternatives. Additional computer-assisted courses are developed.
- **Solo Librarians Caucus** is established.
- **Annual Conference contributed papers** are published to make information available to a wider audience.
- SLA's first **State-of-the-Art Institute videotape** "The Size and Shape of the Information Economy" is released.
- **Executive Development Academy** is introduced to provide a high caliber, advanced-level educational program for information professionals.
- **Affinity credit card** is offered to qualifying members.
- The first of three **inter-organizational meetings** is held to examine national information policy issues.
- **Activity Models Series** is initiated to provide Chapter and Division leaders with a variety of timely information and helpful tips on conducting Chapter and Division activities.
- SLA's first **Strategic Plan** is adopted by the Board of Directors to guide the development of the Association through the year 2005.
- **Salary Survey** is expanded and frequency increased from a triennial study to a biennial study.
- **Chapter and Division Guidelines** are revised and reformatted to update information and make this management document easier to use.

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- SLA's first **Director, Meetings and Marketing** is hired to take advantage of advertising and exhibit sales opportunities and provide greater coordination for conferences and meetings.
- Association **Business Plan** is created.
- The **Information Resources Center develops new database** to track and retrieve minutes and documents from Board meetings.
- **Specialist** is expanded, doubling in size to sixteen pages, to keep up with increasing Association activity and demand for timely information.
- **Mid-year Publications Catalog** is developed to keep members abreast of new titles.
- An **internship** is created in the Information Resources Center to provide a special library work experience to a local MLS student.
- **Executive Management Course** is created to provide an additional advanced learning opportunity to Annual Conference attendees.
- **Assistant Executive Director, Information Services**, SLA's first CIO, is hired to direct the Association's information, data processing, and publishing activities.
- **Survey of Student Members** is conducted to gather baseline information and determine how best to serve this segment of the membership.
- **Innovations in Technology Award** is established with the support of the Meckler Corporation to recognize outstanding member efforts in technology development.
- A **new mid-career scholarship** is established to help members take advantage of long-term professional development opportunities.
- **National Library Week Program and Publicity Kit** is created to help members take advantage of public relations opportunities.
- **First Leaders Reception** is held at the Annual Conference to bring Association and local business leaders together.
- "**P.R. Update**" becomes a monthly column in *Specialist*.
- **Member loan program** is introduced as an additional financial service offered to members.
- **Computer Study** is undertaken to evaluate headquarters' current capabilities and assess hardware and software needs.

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So far in 1991...

- First **International Special Librarians Day** is celebrated.
- SLA's first **Public Affairs Assistant** is hired to help advance the Association's Public Relations and Government Relations activities.
- **InfoPro Pack**, a direct mail response card deck, is developed and mailed to over 40,000 information professionals.
- The **Middle Management Institute** is updated for the '90s with new instructors and program content. Toronto is added as a primary location.
- SLA's second "**Super Survey**" is conducted to update baseline information collected in 1986 and keep abreast of members' changing needs for programs and services.
- First **Research Grant** is awarded at the 1991 Annual Conference.



SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

1700 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 234-4700